

Wycombe pay the penalty of lost opportunities

Sports Mail Special Report

VISITING the lowly-placed Barking team which scored a sensational mid-week win against Tooting, Wycombe Wanderers played some handsome attacking football in an effort to consolidate their Isthmian League leadership. Worley and Bates showed much better form, but the goals would not come, many chances being missed in a goalless first half.

Barking: Smith; Winship, Leaver; Webster, Sproul, Batten; Hammond, Turner, Oliver, Lewis, Southgate.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Moring; Thomas, Bartholomew, Truett; Worley, Trott, Bates, Fryer, Atkins.

Referee: P. R. Pyman.

Switching the ball about smoothly, Wycombe began impressively, and the Barking defence—flapping under the strain—nearly presented the visitors with an opening goal. Surprised goalkeeper Smith had to dive to smother a dangerous back pass.

When Barking settled down they began to make the Wycombe defence look a little casual, rugged looking centre forward Oliver going past Bartholomew to send two menacing centres into the goal-mouth.

MISSED A SITTER

From the first of these Turner missed a sitter, Brown telescoping out a leg to make a save at full stretch.

When Len Worley did receive the ball in the clear Barking stopped him easily. At this stage there was little threat from either Wycombe winger and most of the attacks were funnelled through the centre.

It was a game of fluffed chances. Turner should have scored for Barking and then Bates—after dribbling through

the defence—failed to connect properly and shot wide. Almost immediately Worley landed a powerful shot on the home bar.

The Wanderers improved dramatically with Worley finding his touch at last with some dazzling dribbles and Bates showing much better form.

NEAR THING

Fryer shot wide when well placed and Wycombe looked well worth a goal but no-one was able to score.

A slick move between Worley, Fryer and Bates ended with Barking just scrambling the ball away.

Half-time: Barking 0, Wycombe Wanderers 0.

Wanderers paid the penalty for wasting their opportunities within six minutes of the restart. Tiny RON SOUTHGATE, Barking's left winger burst between Bartholomew and Brown to score a fine opportunist goal.

Badly shaken Wycombe, desperately needed the tonic of a score, were still far from beaten. Venturing all over the forward line. Fryer chased a pass from Bates and just failed to centre.

Showing much more pep in attack, Barking made tracks for goal and Brown looked uncertain at times as the home for-

ward hustled around him.

But he did save Wycombe on one occasion after Oliver had cut down the wing and right through the defence.

SAVED THE MATCH

Seeking more punch, Wycombe moved Atkins into the middle but it was Truett, who provided it—goalkeeper Smith making the save of the match. An inspired dribble by Bates which took him careering past four Barking defenders ended with a lucky deflection for the home team.

A great 76min. solo goal by OLIVER seemed to finish Wycombe's slender hopes of winning.

To make matters worse Wycombe belost inside forward Cliff Trott, bleeding badly from a head wound.

Ten men Wycombe still fought on, and Atkins drove a terrific free-kick into the roof of the Barking net with five minutes to go.

RESULT:

BARKING	2
WYCOMBE	1